

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06459 240855Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CAB-09 COME-00 EB-11

FAA-00 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 240824Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 065

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6459

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR ETRN JA TW CH

SUBJ/ ROC-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: A. TOKYO 13667

B. TAIPEI 6181

1. EAST ASIA RELATIONS ASSOCIATION (EARA) REPRESENTATIVE
MA SHU-LI'S DESCRIPTION OF ROC'S UNCOMPROMISING POSITION
ON ROC-JAPAN CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT (REFTEL A)
PARALLELS EFFORTS HERE DURING DIET VISIT TO COONVEY
NO-COMPROMISE STANCE TO JAPANESE IN MOST FORCEFUL
MANNER POSSIBLE (REF B). WHILE MA'S LINE GENERALLY
CONSISTENT WITH WHATT WE HAVE LEARNED HERE, HIS COMMENT
THAT ROC WOULD FOLD ITS EARA OPERATIONS AND RETREAT FROM
JAPAN IF GOJ SHOULD ACCEDE ESSENTIALLY TO PRC DEMANDS
ON AVIATION ISSUE ADDS NOTE WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD.
WE DOUBT THAT MA'S PREDICTION TO THIS EFFECT REFLECTS
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 06459 240855Z

DEFINITIVE ROC POSITION. WE CONSIDER MA AN AUTHORITATIVE

OFFICIAL, BUT FOR MAJOR NEGOTIATIONS HE PROBABLY
WOULD NOT BE THE KEY NEGOTIATING CHANNEL.

2. ROC SEEMS TO FEEL THAT MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DEAL
WITH THE JAPANESE IS TO TAKE UNBENDING STANCE; THIS
DESPITE LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE IN WHICH REFUSAL TO
DISCUSS POST-BREAK RELATIONS UNTIL AFTER THE FACT
RATHER SEVERELY AFFECTED CONFIDENCE OF TAIWANESE
ELEMENTS AND LEFT ROC IN POSITION OF HAVING TO START
FROM THE BEGINNING IN WORKING OUT NEW ARRANGEMENTS. ROC
POSITION SEEMS BASED ON VIEW THAT JAPAN'S POLICY IS
FORMULATED THROUGH SERIES OF SEPARATE EXCHANGES WITH
PRC AND ROC IN THE HOPE THESE EVENTUALLY WILL
REVEAL SOME COMPROMISE FORMULA WHICH JAPANESE CAN
CONVINCE BOTH SIDES TO ACCEPT. RECENT AP REPORT THAT
JAPAN NOW CONSIDERING STANCE WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN AIR
SERVICE HERE IN EXCHANGE FOR EXPLICIT RECOGNITION
THAT TAIWAN IS PROVINCE OF CHINA IS EXAMPLE OF HOW,
IN ROC VIEW, GOJ FLOATS NEW PROPOSALS.

3. WHILE ROC HAS THUS STAKED OUT A "POSITION OF
PRINCIPLE" AND MAINTAINS IT WILL NOT BUDGE, THIS DOES
NOT MEAN THAT IT WILL REFUSE ANY COMPROMISE AT AN
APPROPRIATE STAGE. GOVERNMENT HERE PROBABLY HAS NOT
YET MADE UP ITS MIND FULLY AS TO WHAT IT IS PREPARED TO
DO IN A CRUNCH, AND WILL CONSIDER AD HOC ADJUSTMENTS
AS SITUATION APPROACHES RESOLUTION.

4. WE FULLY BELIEVE, AND ASSUME EMBASSY TOKYO SHARES
OUR VIEW, THAT USG SHOULD AVOID GETTING ENTANGLED IN
THE CIVIL CONTROVERSY. IN OUR TREATMENT HERE, WE
HAVE AVOIDED MAKING SUGGESTIONS AS TO POSSIBLE COM-
PROMISES EVEN WHILE CONTINUING IN LOW-KEY MANNER TO SEEK INFORMATION.
MCCONAUGHY

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